

REMARKS

In the last Action, restriction was required among 14 species. The Examiner stated that the 14 species are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the 14 species for further prosecution in this application and to list all claims readable on the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected the species of invention designated as Species 1 and lists claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 43-46 and 54 as being readable on the elected species. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or allowance of a generic or sub-generic claim.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

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